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Message Text

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15
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 270922Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7010
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16856

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR JA KS KN
SUBJ: FONMIN REMARKS ON RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

REF: SEOUL 8580

1. PRESS REPORTED, AND APPARENTLY SEOUL PRESS (REFTEL) REPLAYED, SLIGHTLY GARBLED VERSION OF FONMIN MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS IN DIET DEC 24 ABOUT FORMULA FOR RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, FORMER BY US AND JAPAN, LATTER, IN EXCHANGE, BY USSR AND PRC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY SOCIALIST HIDEO DEN, MIYAZAWA SAID THAT CAUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE EXERCISED ABOUT QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION. DEN PURSUED MATTER, SAYING THAT US SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SEEMED TO FAVOR RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FORMULA, TO WHICH MIYAZAWA REPLIED, "THE PROPOSAL IS A STEP FORWARD BUT IT WOULD MEAN THAT A BETTER THING (REUNIFICATION) WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN UP FOR SOME TIME. DURING DISCUSSION OF SUPERPOWER ROLE IN EVOLUTION OF KOREAN SITUATION, MIYAZAWA SAID SITUATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA WOULD BEST BE STABILIZED IF FORMULA (RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION) WERE IMPLEMENTED WITH SUPPORT OF KOREAN PEOPLE. (PRESS MISLEADINGLY OMITTED CONTEXT, PERMITTING INFERENCE THAT MIYAZAWA WAS HESITANT ABOUT SUCH A FORMULA AND THOUGHT PREFERABLY WHOLE
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MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT TO KOREANS).

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2. FONOFF NE ASIA DIV DIRECTOR SEO TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH FONOFF KNEW KOREA WOULD BE SUBJECT OF DIET INTERPELLATIONS, QUESTION ABOUT RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION WAS TOTAL SURPRISE AND SEO HAD NOT BRIEFED FONMIN ON SUBJECT IN PREPARATORY SESSION. MIYAZAWA'S RESPONSE WAS IMPROMPTU, THEREFORE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: MIYAZAWA HAS TAKEN A MORE CONCILITORY LINE TOWARD ROK THAN HIS PREDECESSOR KIMURA. DIET STATEMENT AND RESPONSE TO DEN WAS ALONG THOSE LINES. IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, A PLANNED GESTURE TO SEOUL, AS ROK REPORTS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN IT TO BE. HIS GENERAL LINE, THOUGH, ALREADY SEEMS TO BE HAVING SALUBRIOUS EFFECTS ON ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. EXCHANGE OF FELICITOUS GREETINGS VIA LETTER TO PM MIKI FROM ROK PREMIER KIM JONG PIL, DELIVERED DEC 25 BY VISITING ROK MINISTER OF STATE LEE BYUNG HEE, IS ANOTHER HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION.
HODGSON

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